

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Official Action mailed April 26, 2005, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration. In this Amendment, claims 1-5 are canceled and no claims are added so that claims 6-20 remain pending. No new matter has been added.

The drawings were objected to. In response, replacement Figures 22 and 23 designating those figures as prior art are provided.

Claim 7 was rejected as indefinite. That rejection is respectfully traversed. There is no lack of antecedent basis for "said platform" in claim 7. The correct term in claim 7 is "platform block". Claim 6 recites "a platform block" in line 3, thus providing antecedent basis for "said platform block" in claim 7. Accordingly, the rejection is erroneous and should be withdrawn.

In this Amendment, in addition to the cancellation of claims 1-5, claim 6 is amended. A limitation is added at the end of claim 6 explaining that the interface processing block is executed on a virtual platform and is independent of the platform block. This added limitation of claim 6 is similar to the limitation of claim 7. However, the limitation of claim 7 relates to the optional application processing block, rather than the interface processing block.

The patent application makes clear that the platform block, in the embodiments described in the patent application, corresponds to the navigation hardware 41, the navigation operating system (OS) 42, and the device driver 43. See, for example, the patent application at page 24, lines 9-13. The navigation OS 42 may be a Windows-based operating system, such as commonly in use in personal computers. The optional application processing block corresponds, in the embodiment of Figure 2 of the patent application, to the distribution application module 45. This optional application processing block relates, in the described embodiments of the invention, to optional services, specifically described as collection and delivery information services in the patent application. In other words, in applying the invention to a system in which goods are distributed, the optional services may generate and maintain records concerning locations and times of collection and delivery of particular items.

The interface processing block corresponds to an interface module described as element 112 with regard to the third embodiment of the patent application. See the

description beginning at page 46 of the patent application. All other embodiments described after the third embodiment likewise include such an interface processing block. It is apparent from the description with regard to embodiment 3 at pages 46-56 of the patent application that, as specified in the amendment of claim 6, the interface processing block is independent of the platform block. Moreover, the interface module is described at the page 47 as being executed on a virtual platform, i.e., as a Java application, fully supporting the amendment of claim 6

Claim 6 was rejected as anticipated by DeLorme et al, (US Patent 6,321,158, hereinafter DeLorme). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 7-20 were rejected as unpatentable over DeLorme in view of Ito (US Patent 6,256,578). That rejection is respectfully traversed. These rejections are discussed together.

In view of the amendment of claim 6, the rejection of examined claim 6 as anticipated has been overcome, as already conceded by the Examiner. There is no assertion that DeLorme describes any of the “blocks” of claim 6 as being executed on a virtual platform as well as independent of the platform block. All of the claims, claims 7-9, for example, that mention such an arrangement were rejected as obvious over DeLorme in view of Ito. Therefore, the rejection of claim 6 is moot as to the claim presented here, so that no further discussion of the anticipation rejection is necessary nor provided.

In rejecting claim 7, a rejection that might be modified and applied to amended claim 6, in acknowledging that “DeLorme does not explicitly disclose the execution to be on a virtual machine,” the Examiner asserted that such a disclosure was present in Ito. Applicants respectfully disagree with regard to amended claim 6.


Amended claim 6 makes clear that an important advantage is achieved in the invention. By providing that the interface processing block is independent of the platform block and is executed on a virtual platform, the invention permits development of that interface processing block on an virtual machine without depending upon the platform block and its operating system. Ito does not suggest this feature of the invention. In relying upon Ito, the Examiner directed attention to its abstract, and more pertinently, to the passage appearing within the Summary of the Invention section of Ito in column 2. Both of these passages in Ito, as well as other parts of Ito, would not support a rejection of amended claim 6.

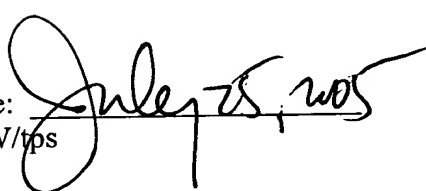
Ito is particularly directed to avoiding hardware-specific applications in map data access. This teaching does not suggest that the elements of the Ito system that might be considered to correspond to the interface processing block are executed on a virtual platform. In fact, as described in Ito, the navigation library directly uses the functions of the navigation operating system and, therefore, is dependent upon a platform, unlike the invention as described in amended claim 6. Therefore, *prima facie* obviousness has not been established with respect to that claim.

Since the rejection of claims 7-20 is based upon the assertion that claim 6 is obvious over DeLorme in view of Ito, the rejection of those claims must be withdrawn upon the withdrawal of the rejection as to amended claim 6. Therefore, further discussion of the rejection of those claims is not necessary nor provided.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, as well as prompt allowance of the claims 6-20, are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: 
JAW/tps

Amendment or ROA - Regular (Revised 5-19-05)

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets include changes to Figs. 22 and 23. These sheets, which include Figs. 22 and 23, replace the original sheets including Figs. 22 and 23. New Figs. 22 and 23 include a legend designating them as prior art.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)